

House Republican Press Release

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**Rep. Labriola, Sen. DeLuca: Legislature Approves Bill Guaranteeing
\$1.6 Million For Oxford High School Project**



State Representative David Labriola, R-131, and Senate Republican Leader Louis C. DeLuca, R-32, announced legislation that guarantees \$1.6 million in state reimbursement for the Oxford High School project received final legislative approval early this morning.

Senate Bill 2002, An Act Concerning Authorization Of State Grant Commitments For School Building Projects And Other Miscellaneous Provisions, now goes to Governor M. Jodi Rell for final approval.

The state's original reimbursement funding approval of the Oxford High School project, approximately \$21.6 million of the \$49.9 million total cost, cites a maximum enrollment projection of 750 students at the high school by October 2006. However, since the school will not open until the following September, and not begin educating the full four grades of students until September 2009, the Town of Oxford stood to lose \$1.6 million in state reimbursement. S.B 1064 updates enrollment projections and therefore, guarantees this funding will be provided to the town.

"We've been working since January to ensure the necessary enrollment figures for the high school," said Rep. Labriola, who serves as Ranking Member (House Republican Leader) of the Education Committee. "I'm delighted that this legislation translates into more than \$1 million for the people of Oxford."

"In a session that was filled with many unfortunate examples of fiscal irresponsibility, I am pleased we were able to do some good by passing this bill and helping the people of Oxford reclaim the state dollars they were planning on having available," said Senator DeLuca.

"The shepherding of this legislation by Dave Labriola and hard of work of Louis DeLuca kept this legislation moving forward," said Oxford First Selectman August Palmer III. "Because of its passage, we did not lose \$1.6 million, which would have made it physically impossible to build this high school."

"I'm deeply appreciative of Representative Labriola and Senator DeLuca's hard work on behalf of the residents of Oxford," said Oxford Superintendent of Schools Judith Palmer. "Establishing an Oxford High School enrollment projection of 750 students takes into

account not only the state Department of Education projections but also the rapid pace in which the Town of Oxford is growing. I applaud the collective effort that went into passing this legislation.”